

The Times-Dispatch

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY

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FRIDAY, MAY 1, 1908.

NAME THEM.

Mr. Bryan, for all his power, cannot rid himself of the delusion that he is being thwarted by "predatory interests." Recently The Times-Dispatch, in discussing the question of instructed delegates, said:

"If ever there was a convention where the power of the uninstructed delegates would be great, it is in the choice of the candidate, but in writing the platform, it will be at Denver. The appreciation of this fact is the stumbling block in the way of those who want no deliberation by the representatives of the people in convention assembled."

"In the next issue of the Commonwealth Mr. Bryan picked out this statement from The Times-Dispatch and made the following comment:

"But the appreciation of the fact that certain special interests are seeking undue power through uninstructed delegates may suggest to the rank and file of the party the importance of making their instructions to their representatives at Denver somewhat explicit."

"An expression of the desire of the rank and file, through instructions to delegates, may prove to be the stumbling block in the way of those who would make the national convention the master, rather than the servant of the party, and who would make the party the plaything of predatory interests rather than the champion of the public welfare."

"What 'special and predatory interests' in Virginia are 'seeking undue power'?" Can Mr. Bryan specify or designate them? Or does Mr. Bryan classify even the slightest doubt of his party to a third nomination as the malign machinations of "special and predatory interests?"

Is a Democrat the plaything of predatory interests because he desires deliberation? Is it a positive proof of political perjury for a Democrat to desire his party's success? Must any one who doubts Mr. Bryan's wisdom as counselor or capacity as a leader, or even his chance of election, thereby write himself down as a hireling of the plutocrats and an enemy of the public welfare? Has the domination of Mr. Bryan become so absolute, and his ascendancy so unquestionable that he can proscribe as traitors any who desire uninstructed delegates, uninstructed platforms and a nominee that will poll the maximum strength of the Democratic party in November?

Like Mr. Roosevelt's pater about conspiracies by rich malefactors to discredit "my policies," Mr. Bryan offers "predatory interests" as the explanation of those doubts and uncertainties which beset so many Democrats at present. If this be the truth, let Mr. Bryan specify. If he cannot specify, he may well hesitate to denounce in the name of Democracy that freedom of deliberation and that reverence to the will of all the people upon which the original Democracy of this country is founded.

THE PRIMARY ESSENTIALLY DEMOCRATIC.

One of the clearest and best arguments in favor of the primary is in the Roanoke Times of Wednesday. The substance of the Times' comment is that since the Democratic party is in complete control of this State, therefore the nomination by a convention leaves the voter nothing to do but to ratify at the polls an election in which he has really had no part. To quote the Roanoke Times:

"If the primary is abolished by the Roanoke convention, and the choice of nominees is made in future by the convention plan, in practice it is not in theory it defeats the expressed will of the people. In other words, the delegates in convention assembled fill the offices instead of the people. The effect of this must ultimately be the driving of many from the Democratic party into the Republican ranks, for the people are very often negligent of their rights and privileges, they easily become jealous if there is any attempted usurpation. Can the Democratic party, then, afford to do away with the primary?"

As The Times-Dispatch has so often said, the virtue of the primary is its democracy. If the Democratic party abolishes the primary, it will be open to the just charge that it is not representative either in theory or practice of the principle of going back to the people without unnecessary intervention in every possible instance.

HOW TO AVOID TIPPING.

"If we may believe a traveled writer in the London Times, the entire continent of North America has succumbed to the insidious tipping evil, barring only the Smoky Mountains, the hill fastnesses of Kentucky and the more or less barabaz regions around Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan and Alaska."

Senator Bailey denies that he is a multimillionaire. He says he is a man.

What is the difference, offhand, between a sanitarium and a sanatorium? And if not, why?

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 "Well," she replied, "I am not running a kindergarten."—Bohemian.

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